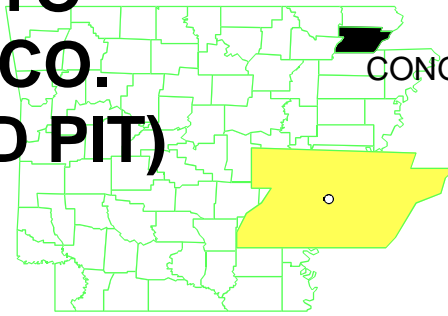


MONROE AUTO EQUIPMENT CO. (PARAGOULD PIT) ARKANSAS

EPA ID# ARD980864110



EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 01
Greene County
Paragould
Updated: 6/11/97

Site Description

- Location:**
- The Monroe Auto Pit site is located on Arkansas Highway 357 about three miles west of the southern city limits of Paragould in Greene County, Arkansas. Greene County is located in northeastern Arkansas.
- Population:**
- Approximately 15,000 (City of Paragould)
- Setting:**
- The site occupies 7 acres of a former sand and gravel borrow pit. Four acres of the site are surrounded by a 6-foot chain link fence with barbed wire and a locked access gate.
 - The area is basically rural and lightly populated with private residences located immediately south, north, and northeast of the site.
 - The site is located on the eastern flank of Crowleys Ridge, a north-south trending physiographic feature. The topography of the site area consists of undulating hills. Elevations at the site varies from 460 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the northeastern corner of the site to 413 feet above MSL in the southwestern corner of the site.
- Hydrology:**
- The site lies within an area designated as the Delta Ecoregion by the Arkansas Water Quality Standards. The nearest waterbody to the site is the lower St. Francis River below its confluence with Straight Slough.
 - Three distinct ground water zones are located in the sediments beneath the site. The perched water zone is found in the alluvial gravel sediments of the Pliocene-aged Crowleys Ridge deposits. An upper unconfined aquifer zone and a lower confined aquifer zone are found in the Eocene-aged Wilcox Group sediments that underlie the Crowleys Ridge deposits.

Wastes and Volumes

- Principal pollutants include solvents and degreasing agents such as 1,1 Dichloroethane, 1,2 Dichloroethylene Xylenes, and metals such as chromium and lead.
- Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of electroplating waste (sludges) are buried on-site.

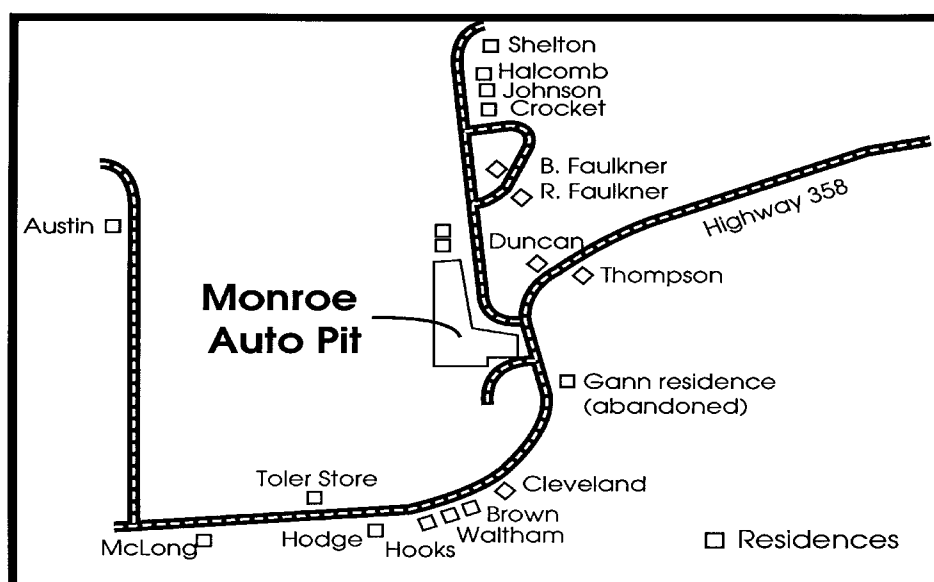
Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 46.01
Proposed Date: 10/15/81
Final Date: 8/29/90
NPL Update: No. 10

- Received comments from Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), State, and various politicians, against site listing.

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- During 1973 - 1978, Monroe Auto Equipment Company deposited approximately 15,000 cubic yards of alum and lime electroplating sludge at the site in a sand and gravel pit. The State of Arkansas had issued a temporary permit for waste disposal.
- In July 1987, EPA conducted a site assessment inspection to determine the potential for public exposure to contaminants from the site.
- In August 1990, the site was formally added to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites.
- In March 1991, EPA issued a special notice letter to Monroe Auto Equipment Company to conduct remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS).

- On June 28, 1991, Monroe signed an Administrative Order on Consent to conduct the RI/FS under EPA oversight.

Health Considerations:

- Ingestion of contaminated soils, surface water, and ground water.

Other Environmental Risks:

- Contamination of nearby streams from Potentially contaminated surface springs runoff.

Record of Decision

Signed: September 26, 1996

Soil and Sludge: (Alternative 4B)

- Cap the sludge disposal area in accordance with RCRA Subtitle C requirements.
- Install a french drain around the area of sludge deposits. The french drain would intercept perched ground water before it enters the contaminated area. The captured ground water would be transported via buried piping to a discharge point located in the intermittent stream southwest of the site.
- Prohibit future development of the site.
- Conduct environmental monitoring to ensure effectiveness of the remedial action.

Ground Water: (Alternative 4B)

- Reduce contaminant concentrations through naturally attenuating processes such as biological/chemical/physical degradation, adsorption and dispersion.
- Place ground water use restrictions on the site property.
- Conduct ground water monitoring of on-site and near-site monitoring wells and residential wells.
- Implement immediate and secondary contingency actions if necessary to protect human health and the environment.

Other Remedies Considered

Soil and Sludge:

1. No action
2. Access and deed restrictions
3. Soil and vegetative cover; access and deed restrictions
- 4A. Cap; slurry wall; access and deed restrictions
5. Solidification/stabilization; on-site cap; access and deed restrictions
6. Excavation; vapor extraction; solidification/stabilization; on-site cap; access and deed restrictions
7. Excavation; off-site transport and disposal in Subtitle C or D landfill.

Ground Water:

1. No action
3. Ground water extraction; carbon adsorption; Reinjection

Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 6/91.
- Open houses and workshops: NPL letter 10/89; NPL letter 8/90; Kickoff fact sheet, press clips 1/91; Superfund "101" Workshop 1/91; Citizens' RI scoping meeting 2/91; Speech to Environmental Group 4/91. Meeting with Realtors, RI update fact sheet 8/91. Letters to citizens 2/93; Letters to Realtors 5/94; Open House with PRPs 4/94.
- Original Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 8/95 and 9/95.
- Milestone Fact Sheets: 1/91, 8/91, 2/92, 8/95
- Citizens on site mailing list: 41
- Constituency Interest: Site area residents concerned about drinking water well contamination, surface water contamination, and property values. State/PRPs opposed listing the site on NPL.
- Site Repository: NE Arkansas Regional Library, Paragould, AR

Technical Assistance Grant

- Availability Notice: 1/91
- Letter of Intent: None

Contacts

- **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Earl Hendrick 214/665-8519, Mail Code 6SF-AP
- **State Contact:** Mike Arjmandi (ADPC&E)
- **Community Involvement Coord. (EPA):** Donn Walters, 214/665-6483, Mail Code 6SF-PO
- **Attorney (EPA):** Paul Wendel, 214/665-2136, Mail Sta. 6SF-DL
- **State Coordinator (EPA):** Robie Hirt, 214/665-8079, Mail Sta. 6SF-AP
- **Prime Contractor:** Engineering - Science

Cost Recovery:

- PRPs Identified: Monroe Auto Equipment Company
- Viable PRP: 1
- Administrative Order on Consent for the RI/FS.

Present Status and Issues

- RI was completed in August 1993; FS was completed in April 1995. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on September 26, 1996.
- Under an agreement with the EPA, the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology assumed lead responsibility for the Monroe Auto Site, and is currently negotiating with the PRP for implementation of the remedy specified in the ROD.

Benefits

- The EPA conducted initial investigations and had determined that the site does not pose an immediate threat to area residents. No further actions are required while the State is negotiating with the Monroe Auto Equipment Co. for implementation of the remedy that is protective of human health and the ground water.